DARK REIGN
MARVEL
53
THE NEW AVENGERS
BENDIS
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And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born, to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

In the wake of the Skrull invasion, Tony Stark has been stripped of his roles as both leader of the Avengers and director of a now-defunct S.H.I.E.L.D., and the Avengers are on the run. Until they can be sure who's on their side, the Avengers are using Captain America's hideout in Brooklyn as a safe house. Collectively they try to keep the values of the Avengers name alive even though they are living on the wrong side of the law.

Norman Osborn is the new political and media darling and, in Tony's place, is now running H.A.M.M.E.R., the national peacekeeping task force, which includes his own team of Avengers. Unable to stand it, Ronin finally took matters into his own hands and went on national television to out Osborn as the former villain called the Green Goblin.

But something far worse is stirring, only it's not on this mortal plane.

Some time ago, the Sorcerer Supreme, Doctor Stephen Strange, corrupted his mastery of the mystic arts when he used dark powers to save the Avengers. He hasn't been seen until now, when he comes to the Avengers for help in his mission to find the new Sorcerer Supreme before the Dormammu-possessed criminal kingpin called the Hood finds him first.

Strange, along with the Avengers, follow the Eye of Agamotto to New Orleans…little do they know that the Hood's beaten them there, shooting Daimon Hellstrom, the Son of Satan, point blank.

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NEW ORLEANS.

CLINT, DARLING, THE FUTURE OF THE MAGIC THINGAMADOOS IS IN PERIL...

COULD YOU PLEASE *LAND* THIS *DAMN QUINJET?!*

WHERE, EXACTLY?

I'M LOOKING FOR A ROOFTOP THAT DOESN'T HAVE FIFTY AIR CONDITIONERS AND SATELLITE DISHES AND WHATEVER THOSE ROUND SPINNING THINGS ARE.

THEY'RE VENTS.

I'M JUST SAYING, I COULD HAVE FLOWN HERE FASTER WITH MY *WEB PITS.*

DO *YOU* WANNA COME UP HERE AND FLY THIS THING?

MAYBE I *SHOULD.*

MAYBE YOU SHOULD.

SETTLE DOWN, LADIES.

HEY, LUKE, MAN, ABOUT THAT THING WITH ME AND YOUR WIFE BEFORE?

YOU KNOW, ABOUT HER BEING IN LOVE WITH ME IN HIGH SCHOOL?

I SWEAR, I DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS. I SWEAR.

I MEAN, SHE'S *CUTE* AND ALL BUT...

BUT DON'T YOU WORRY, MAN, I BELIEVE IN THE- THE STATUTES OF MARRIAGE, OR THE INSTITUTION.

YEAH, THE INSTITUTION. I'M ALL ABOUT IT.

SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

BUT YOU AND IRON FIST BROKE UP, RIGHT?

BECAUSE I'D LIKE TO TAKE A SHOT AT *THAT* ACTION.

HEH.

CLINT, LAND *THE DAMN PLANE!*

WHAT'S UP?

THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO.

UH, WHAT'S IT DOING NOW??

SOMETHING IS HAPPENING.

YEAH... WHAT?

IT'S NEVER DONE THIS BEFORE.

WHAT IS IT DOING THAT IT'S NEVER DONE BEFORE?

IT- IT SEEMS TO BE APPEARING BEFORE ALL THOSE WHO WOULD REPLACE ME.

SO WE'RE LOOKING AT *THEM* LOOKING AT THE *EYE*?

I - I THINK SO.

I TOLD YOU. THIS IS NEW TO ME. THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE.

WHY IS IT DOING THAT?

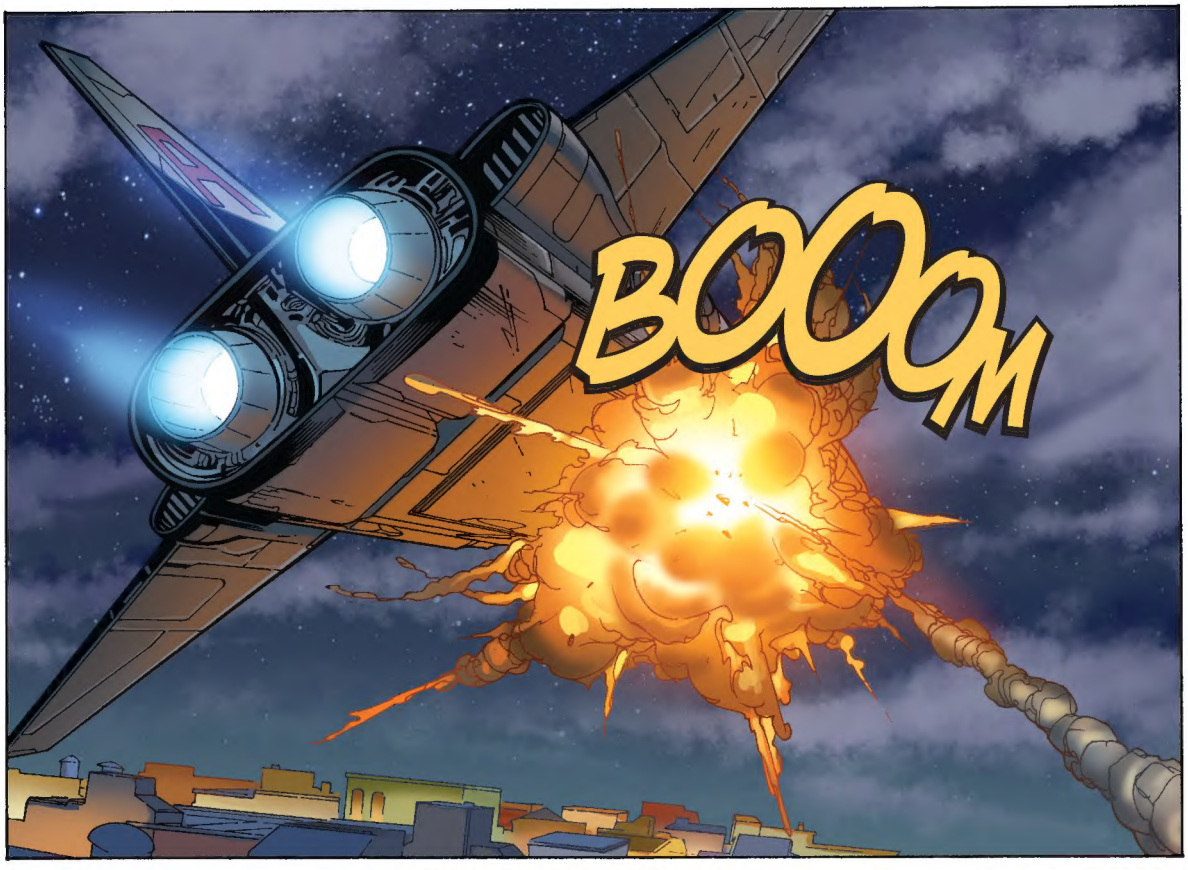
UH, WHERE'D IT GO?

I- I DON'T KNOW.

MAYBE IT WENT TO ITS NEW OWNER.

MAYBE...

INCOMING!!


BOOOM

SON OF A--

POP THE DOOR!
I'LL LOSE THE SHIELD!
I'M NOT CRASHING THIS THING INTO A CITY!
BOOM
DO IT!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

GGAGH!
THIP
THIP
THIP
THIP
THIP
THIP
OOF!
RRR! FORGET ME!
GO GO!
YOU'RE WELCOME.
FABOOM
FATANADA ROOMADANA!
JEEZ!
NICE SAVE, DOC.
TINK
TINK
CRAP!
GUESS SOMEONE BROUGHT THE WHOLE BAG OF TRICKS!
HA!
HA!

HA!
WHUMP
HA!
FUMP
FUMP
HA!!

AIE!
BAM
SMACK
HA!
WHERE'D SHE GO?
I KICKED HER OFF THE ROOF.
BUT NOW I DON'T SEE HER.
WE GOT HER GUNS.
WOLVERINE, GET OVER HERE! WE NEED YOUR NOSE.
WHO WAS IT? OVER.
MADAME MASQUE.
THE HOOD'S GIRLFRIEND.
MADAME MASQUE IS THE HOOD'S GIRLFRIEND?
THAT'S THE RUMOR.
THEN HE IS HERE.
GOOD.
NO, IT'S NOT GOOD! IT'S VERY BAD. IT MEANS HE GOT HERE BEFORE US.
HE MAY HAVE KILLED THE NEW SORCERER SUPREME BEFORE HE COULD TAKE HIS OR HER RIGHTFUL PLACE.
HE MAY HAVE THE EYE!
WELL, THEN WE'LL DEAL WITH HIM ACCORDINGLY.

DAIMON HELLSTROM'S NEW ORLEANS APARTMENT.

WHO THE HELL ARE *YOU* SUPPOSED TO BE?

FIVE MINUTES AGO.

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

BULLETS? REALLY?

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?!

DAIMON HELLSTROM. SON OF SATAN.

GIVE ME THE EYE.

DEMON, YOU WANNA TALK TO ME, YOU TALK TO ME STRAIGHT.

NOT THROUGH THIS JERK-OFF YOU TOOK POSSESSION OF.

DEMON, YOU COME HERE LIKE THAT, I WILL EXORCIZE YOU OUT SO FAST YOUR *TAIL WILL SPIN!*

GIVE ME THE EYE!

NOT ONLY DO I NOT KNOW *WHAT THE HELL* YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT... I DON'T *CARE*.

@#%$ YOU.

YOU'RE IN *MY* WORLD NOW, BITCH!

YOU'RE IN MY HELL ON EARTH!

UH...

THE--THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO!
OH PLEASE... PLEASE...
HUH.
WHERE IS IT?
SHUT UP.
THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO.
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
GIVE IT TO ME.
PUT A CORK IN IT, DEMON. I'M THINKING. WHY WOULD--
THE EYE!
YEAH YEAH...
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT. IT BELONGS TO DOCTOR STRANGE.
IT BELONGS TO ME!
UH-HUH.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, DEMON?
I WANT TO MAKE SURE I CAST YOU OUT POLITE-LIKE.

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM BLAM
GET THE HELL OUT OF MY HOUSE!
THERE!

BARTON, TAKE YOUR TEAM, GO WITH DOCTOR STRANGE AND CHECK THAT OUT.
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE SITUATION DOWN HERE.
IT'S JUST MADAME MASQUE. I CAN TAKE CARE OF HER MYSELF.
IF THE HOOD'S HERE, IF SHE'S HERE, HIS GANG IS TOO.
HOLD ON... I CAN TRACK HER.
YOU HEALED ENOUGH?
GETTING THERE.
TAKE A GUN.
WHAT? NO THANKS.
YOU SHOULD ALL TAKE GUNS.
NOPE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
WELL, BUCKY CAP, YOU HAVE WINGS FOR EARS, SO WE ALL HAVE THINGS WE DON'T UNDERSTAND.
STOP CALLING ME "BUCKY CAP!!"
CAROL, THERE! FOUR BLOCKS NORTH. SHE'S MOVING.

AAGGHH!
SMASH
DAMN IT ALL TO HELL.
HA!

SMASH
HURAGH!
GGGiiiVVEEE iTTT TOOO
AARRGGHH!
HOLD ON A SECOND...
HEY, IDIOTS! THIS AIN'T A REALITY SHOW!
GET OUT OF HERE!
WHERE WERE WE?
NNAAGGHH!

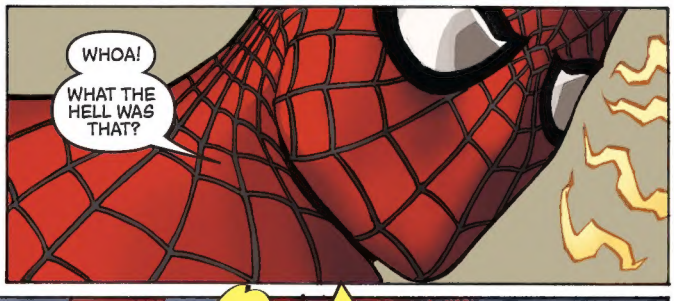
YEAH, YEAH...
BOO
OOM
OOPS!
LAND THIS THING. I WANT TO FIGHT, TOO.
LUKE CAGE!
HEY, DAIMON.
WELL DONE.
WHERE THE HELL DID YOU JUST COME FROM?
DAMN, ARE YOU THE ONE?
"THE ONE" WHAT? WHO IS THIS? WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE BIG MAN'S HERE TO TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT. I THINK TODAY'S YOUR LUCKY DAY.
HO! IS THAT DOCTOR STRANGE?
IT IS.
HYNAAGH!

OH, GOD!
SHUT UP.
THIS IS ABOUT THE DUMBEST THING YOU CAN DO HERE, LADY.
GO AWAY, YOU AND YOUR PALS. WALK AWAY.
LET HER GO.
WALK AWAY.
I'M GIVING YOU TO THE COUNT OF THREE.
NO, I'M GIVING YOU TO THE COUNT OF THREE.
HOW ABOUT WE ALL COUNT TO A HUNDRED?
ONE.
OH, GOD!
DON'T DO IT.
TWO.

BLAM

THREE.

OH MY GOD!
HE--HE SHOT HER? DID HE KILL HER?
NOPE. THE MASK TOOK THE HIT. SHE'S BREATHING.
UGH! I HATE GUNS.
WEB HER UP SO WE CAN FIND DOCTOR STRANGE AND GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!


WHOA!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

FABOOM

WHAM
AAGGH!
FOOOOMM
GO! RUN!
RUN? I DON'T RUN!
HE CAN'T HAVE POSSESSION OF THE EYE.
I DON'T HAVE THE EYE.
THEN WHO...
RR...?

MY NAME IS JERICHO DRUMM.
THEY CALL ME BRUDDER VOODOO.
WHAT 'DA HELL IS WRONG WIT' YOU PEOPLE?
Don Tan 05
TO BE CONTINUED...